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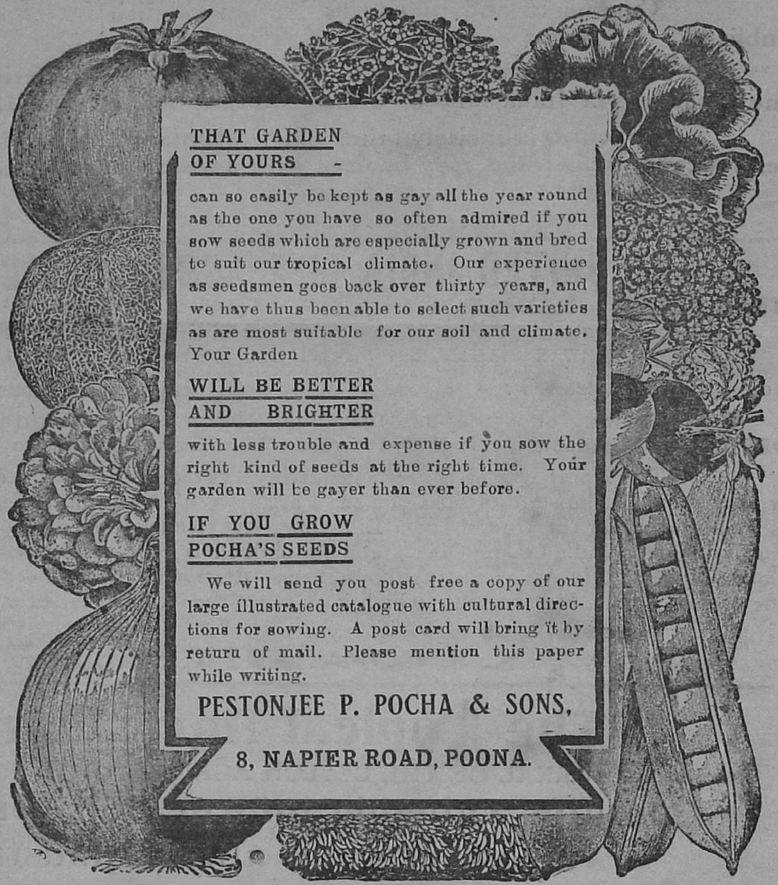

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28 NOV

THE VALUE OF FARM-MANURE.

[By Mr. Annesley de Silva.]

The question of increasing and preserving the fertility of the land has been one of paramount importance with farmers all over the world. A peep into the early history of agriculture reveals to us the fact that the method of maintaining soil fertility by manurial applications was even then in vague, for even the ancient writers laid special stress on the value of farm-yard manure. Varro for instance, who lived from 116 to 25 B.C., wrote a practical treatise on the art of managing farm manure. In this book he has laid special stress on two particular points, viz, before the application of manure to the land the dung should be well rotted, and secondly, that the dung heaps should always be kept in a state of moisture. Another Latin writer who has given many valuable hints as regards storage and utilization of farm manure is Columella. The precepts of these two writers are in fact the basis on which the principles of farm manure rest. This subject is indeed as of much importance to the modern farmer as it was to the ancients, and its ever-increasing importance can easily be gauged by the fact that even the scientific agriculturist extols the virtues of farm-manure.

A substance of very indefinite composition, the solid and liquid excreta constitute an important part of the fertilising material of farm-manure. The quality of the manure depends on certain factors such as the nature and age of the animals producing it, the food which they consume, the kind and quantity of litter used and the manner of storage. Broadly speaking however farm-manure will contain from 65 to 80% of water, from 45 to 65% of nitrogen, from 4 to 8% of potash, and from 2 to 5% of phosphoric acid. Experiments have shown that the most valuable portion of farm-manure is the liquid excreta, because this contains a greater percentage of the most valuable fertilizers in nitrogen and potash. It must be noted however that in the case of all young animals, much of the food given them is utilized for the purpose of building up their bodies, hence we cannot lay much value on the excreta produced by them as on the excreta of fully grown animals. The richer the food the animal is fed with, the richer the manure, hence it is always cheaper to feed the animals well with wholesome food and thus get a perfect manure, than to buy artificial manures.

Two points of vital importance which have to be taken into consideration as regards farm-manure, are gathering and storing. In order that the manure may be gathered without the loss of the best elements it is essential that the manure heap should be compacted, as this prevents the loss of nitrogen and phosphates, and it should also be sheltered. The best method of storage seems to be in pits, the sides and bottom of which are plastered with clay, with a low roof above. The objects of storage are to secure the preservation of the valuable constituents, and also to secure as much dry matter and as much ammonia as possible. These objects are fairly attained when the manure is stored in pits, as in these the liquid excreta is thoroughly absorbed, air enters less freely, decomposition goes on less rapidly, and external agents such as rain, wind and sun do not affect it at all. There are however several possibilities of improvement. It will always be better for instance if the liquid excreta is collected separately into a tank, and then pumped and distributed over the land, by the use of absorbents. The manure heap too has its defects, because it tends to make the manure heap too dry, with the result that nitrate formation sets in, and this also prevents the decomposition of the litter. Hence in order that the manure should at the same time retain its fertilizing constituents, the heap should be kept compact yet sufficiently moist, and it should not be stirred up. Compactness is best secured by making the heap as deep as possible, then fermentation proceeds slowly and uniformly, and thus renders the manure more suitable as plant food. The use of litter is highly recommended, owing to its great capacity for absorbing liquids and its power to fix ammonia. It is a great mistake to let the manure lie in loose heaps, as then air enters freely causing volatilization of ammonia, fermentation and reduction of weight.

Farm-yard manure improves the physical condition of the soil, tending thereby to keep the land porous and allowing free access to the air. Light lands are more especially benefitted by farm manure, through their being supplied with organic matter, whilst the soil itself becomes more consolidated, whereby it is enabled to retain better its manurial capacity. The valuable physical effects that dung exerts on the soil cannot operate however till the material is ploughed under. Applied to heavy clay soils, farm-manure tends to open up the soil, thus rendering the soil easier of working. Whilst farm-manure exerts certain beneficial effects upon the soil, it also provides material which acts more or less directly as food for the crop; its greatest function however is the amelioration of the soil. The variety of organic and inorganic compounds of various degrees of solubility which farm manure contains, and its complexity of composition, renders it a perfect as well as a universal manure. Agriculturists all over the world repose confidence on this and rightly too, for this confidence is founded upon solid, economic teaching, coupled with practical attainments, and it will take a great deal to shake this conviction for it is rooted in generations of careful study and practical achievement.

INDIA'S INDUSTRIAL OBJECTIVE.

(By Y. A. Thombare.)

The World War has shaken the capitalistic organisation of industry to its foundations. As a result of the cataclysm old ideas are being pulled down and old institutions overhauled. India also has been profoundly stirred by the forces of liberalism unloosed by it. She has further been vivified as never before by the great non-co-operation movement of self-discipline, self-purification and self-sacrifice launched by Mahatma Gandhi. There is so far no reason to fear that India's contribution towards the reconstruction of the world will not do credit to the pristine purity of her ideals regarding betterment of the human race.

India's greatest need to-day is the development of her vast resources of raw materials so as to possess an industrial equipment on a par with that of the rest of the "civilised" world —factories to make her own machinery for the requirements of her mills, her own locomotives for her railways, her own motors, steelplates and aeroplanes. These, it is argued, constitute the *sine qua non* of a modern nation and without them India's citizens must remain exposed to danger from the attacks of outsiders. To a full development of her resources there can be no objection from any quarter. But *cui bono?* —and shall it be on the lines of capitalism? These are the paramount qnestions which face her.

Capitalism is based on the motive of profit to the capitalist. It cannot flourish without markets, to secure which It does not hesitate to make war, at any rate, in the last resort. It forces weaker peoples to buy its manufactures at the point of the bayonet. In its essence it is thus opposed to the peace of the world, intensifying old feuds, racial jealousies and national greeds. It is thus the foster-parent of militarism. It is unfair to its own nationals. It has never worked smoothly even in the continent of its birth. Its inefficiency is being brought home more and more even to its active advocates, leading in serveral places to a creeping paralysis of social and industrial life. There has, in consequence, arisen an incessant demand for drastic changes and a complete transformation of the economic structure of society.

But even if it were possible to get rid of the evils of the capitalistic system, is not India confronted by an insurmountable difficulty in the way of her success in that she is a subject nation? Her interests have always been subordinated to those of the dominating country and its effects are writ indelibly in the huge drain on her wealth, the extinction of her world-famed manufactures and her consequent impoverishment and misery. She is now said to have the same liberty to "consider" her interests as Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and South Africa. But will she be allowed to take action irrespective of who may be hit by it? As long as the Governor-General remains responsible to Parliament and the Government of India is constituted as it is, the Government and the Legislature of India are not bound to be in agreement over important fiscal measures. Then our new-found liberty is confined to matters purely of Indian interest. But in these days of international trade matters of any consequence can hardly remain "purely of Indian interest". In a conflict about them India must needs go to the wall. In his recent reply to the Lancashire delegation Mr. Montagu is reported to have said that he was determined to maintain the right given to the Government of India to consider India's interest first like Britain and the rest of the Empire. But the right must remain unsatisfactory as long as India is unable herself to maintain it adequately. No doubt British trade is in need of the good-will of India for the sake of its own prosperity. But if India is allowed to have her own fiscal way, she will adopt a policy of protection and the question cannot but ultimately arise whether her action can be looked upon as consonant with her solidarity within the British Empire. Unfortunately the world situation is only too much full of possibilities giving rise to those "exceptional circumstances" which Mr. Montagu declared as justifying the Secretary of State's intervention in matters purely of Indian interest. How would Indian capitalistic interests fare in that eventuality?

The Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau are not a body of non-co-operators. Nevertheless when they recently had an exchange of views with the head of the Supreme Government's Commerce and Industry Department for the purpose of mutual help and co-operation, they could not disguise their suspicion and distrust towards Government and plainly showed fear lest Indian interests should suffer at the hands of the Government. Even an Anglo-Indian daily in referring to the incident was led to remark: "But while we feel that the Chamber has not done itself credit by its fulminations upon false premises, we can understand the apprehensions prevailing in Indian industrial and commercial sections, on the strength of past history, lest there should be appointed to take charge of the (fiscal) Commission some Englishman who would have an unfair bias in favour of the British export trade......". The view that Indian fears are not unjustifiable gains strength from the fierce competition that is inevitable between England, America and Japan for world supremacy and, therefore, for capturing Indian trade. Germany with her colossal burden of the reparation charges will also be compelled to try her chances in the competition.

Under the stimulus of conditions created by the war America greatly increased her power of production and cannot now find buyers for her manufactures. Great Britain finds herself in no happier predicament, and yet her productive capacity is now at least 50 per cent. in excess of the pre-war standard.

Then there are further reasons why the growth of Indian industrialism is expected to be hampered by British direction. Twenty-eight millions of the people of Great Britain depend upon foreign trade for their livelihood. They have a standard of living which is much higher than what obtains in this country. There can be no finality to the economic advancement of a country which flourishes on capitalism. Then there is the need for England to engage in as comprehensive a programme of ship-building as that of the United States so as not to be outstripped by them in naval power and this at a time when her ability to meet the increased expenditure is questionable. The Dominions are asked to lighten the Mother Country's burden in this respect and they in their turn desire to participate in England's profits from her oversea dependencies. All this portends sooner or later a concentration of strong alien capitalistic forces on Indian soil in addition to making it their dumping ground for "home" products to owst the Indian competitor from the ground he may dare to occupy. The might of the British arms would make the issue of such an unequal struggle a foregone conclusion. Indian capitalists may be tolerated so far as they may consent to their absorption by their British rivals just as Indian Ministers are, but beyond that they will receive scant mercy. The fate of the venerable fabric of the Austrian Empire is a standing warning in this respect. The Big Four dropped it tike a bowl of porcelain on the ground. What guarantee is there that the pogrom spirit which could ruin the economic structure of Central Europe would leave that of India uninjured?

India again cannot go on playing the second fiddle *ad infinitum*. She has her own pressing problems to solve and a moment's delay in dealing with them will be nothing less than criminal. The writer of a very careful and elaborate article in the *Indian Journal of Economics* says that in 1916-17 the best year from the agricultural point or view, despite restrictions on export of food-grains to foreign countries due to the war, so many as 160 millions of people were in position to get only 79 per cent. of the coarsest kinds of food-grains to maintain them in health and strength. Two-thirds of the population, he continues, always get only three-fourths of the amount of food-grains they should have and it is just possible, he further goes on, that one-third of the above number (two-thirds of the population) may be getting a little less than 90 per cent. of their requirements and the rest of the two-thirds or 100 millions in spite of hard labour may be getting for a greater part of the year less than sixty per cent. of food-grains that are given to the worst sort of criminals in the jails of the United or Central Provinces. It is surely a very alarming state of affairs. An examination of the brief analysis of the census figures issued by the Government of India and of the facts recorded in the vital statistics of the country during the past few years reveals, in the words of the *Times of India*, that "there has been a decline of both birth-rate and survival rate since 1913 and during 1918 and 1919 births were fewer than deaths, while the stimulus which the war gave to agriculture did not affect the population figures". After making due allowance for the terrific havoc caused by the iufluenza epidemic and the famine among the population it could not suppress "an uneasy feeling that the modernisation and current material improvement of Indian life are not being accompanied by an equally promising betterment in the health of the people, but rather the reverse". Thus India is menaced by a grave danger in the form of the food or vitality problem of the vast bulk of her population. Every other question must necessarily pale into insignificance before it. It would be a national disaster of the first magnitude if this problem of problems were neglected and India's man-power were to be seriously crippled as a result.

The remedy to be of any use must be one which will add to the inadequate resources of the masses in fighting the dire enemy of semi-starvation. No amount of success in the growth of capitalism will be able to effect this. There is not space enough in the cities, which are the citadels of capitalism, to accommodate all the population of the villages and they must always look to the soil for their sustenance. What is required is to provide them with an occupation which will supplement their income and thus render them capable of earning and retaining enough food for themselves. An ideal occupation is that of spinning and weaving. The spinning wheel is cheap, is easily made and repaired by the village carpenter and requires only a small capital for raw material. The yarn can be woven in almost every village. Vast potentialities have now been opened out by the introduction of the *Charkha* propaganda and the boycott of foreign cloth. The prices of cloth may leap up for a time as a consequence but it will not be an unmixed evil for the villagers, who, as producers, will be able to share in the profits. Again British capitalism need not become anxious, as it has endless resources. A self-reliant and self-sufficient India will further be a source of greater strength to the Empire than a helpless weak and starving India. What is more is the promise of the rise of a peasantry in India healthier, cleaner, freer and sweeter than the population ground down by capitalism, which will ever furnish an object-lesson stimulating the European societies wrecked by war to revive similar rural societies amongst them selves. (*The Hindustan Review.*)

BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION 1923.

Prince's Visit to India.

A Commercial Mission.

A strong appeal in support of the British Empire Exhibition to be held at Wembley in 1923, was made by the Prince of Wales presiding over a meeting at the Mansion House on the 11th October 1921, in furtherance of the project. The Prince of Wales urged that in order to provide employment for some "thousands of able-bodied men who offered their all for their country" work should not be delayed. His Royal Highness asked for an immediate guarantee of a million sterling and and declared that nothing would set him on the way to India rejoicing more than the knowledge that this problem was being tackled and that there were consequently a few thousand happier homes.

Referring to his forthcoming Indian tour, the Prince of Wales said that he hoped to gather fresh experiences of what the British Commonwealth of Nations means, and to receive first hand information of some of our difficult problems in the Far-East.

Proceeding the Prince of Wales declared that they wanted in the Exhibition to take stock of British assets; to explore every avenue to fresh marked and fresh supplies of raw materials; to invest men and money in those parts of the Empire which called for such investments and which promised the early increase of wealth of British Nations and the early growth to prosperity and happiness of the individual to focus public attention in Britian on problems which were the daily experience of statesmen throughout the seven seas; to encourage commercial, industrial and scientific research; and to get different nations of the Empire better known to each other and to help people to believe that the Empire which was worth dying for, was also worth living and working for. That task demanded the highest ideals and the most earnest endeavours. He intended that nothing should be lacking on his part to see it accomplished.

The Prince said that he was much struck by the unanimity with which the Prime Ministers and other representatives of the Dominions and India had welcomed the Exhibition project. They did not doubt the wisdom of the gospel they preached, namely, that, as Mr. Hughes said last July, it was in the interests of the Empire to develop its great resources and to exploit to its utmost possibilities for Imperial and National improvement.

BOMBAY MILLS

Use Indian Yarn.

The Bombay Provincial Congress Committee has issued the following list of mills in Bombay, for the guidance of the public:—

Mills Weaving out of Indian Yarn only:—

1. Jewraj Balloo Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd.
2. Sir Shapurji Bharucha Mills.
3. Kasturchand Mills.
4. Bradbury Mills.
5. Phenix Mills. Ltd.
6. The Crown Spinning Weaving Ltd.
7. Morarj Goculdas Spinning and Weaving.
8. Victoria Mills.
9. Raja Gukuldas, Ltd.
10. Ruby Mills.
11. The Bombay Cotton Manufacturing Co., Ltd.
12. Coorla Spinning and Weaviug Co., Ltd.
13. Emperor Edward Spinning and Mannfacturing.
14. Presidency Mills Co., Ltd.
15. Jamshed Manufacturing Co., Ltd.
16. Kohinoor Mills Co., Ltd.
17. Diamond Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd.
18. Swan Mill, Ltd.
19. Finlay Mills, Ltd.,
20. Khatau Makanji Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd.
21. Hindustan Spinning and Weaving Mills Co., Ltd.
22. The Globe Manufacturing Co., Ltd.
23. Elphinstone Spinning and Weaving Mills.
24. All the Mills under the control of Messrs. W. H. Brady & Co., Ltd.

Mills Proposing to discontinue the use of foreign yarn as soon as their present stock is over. These Mills are using for the present very little of foreign yarn:—

1. Mathuradas Mills.
2. Simplex Mills Co., Ltd.
3. The Planet Mills, Ltd.
4. Madhowji Dharamsi.

Mills using foreign yarn for borders only:—

1. Currimbhoy Mills Co., Ltd.
2. E. Pabaney Mills Co., Ltd.
3. Fazulbhoy Mills, Ltd.
4. Crescent Mills Co., Ltd.
5. Indian Bleaching Dyeing and Printing Works.
6. Indore Malwa United Mills.
7. Pearls Mills. Ltd.
8. Premier Mills, Ltd.
9. Currimbhoy Ginning Pressing Co Ltd.
10. Bombay Industrial Mills Co., Ltd.

Mills Refusing to supply Information:—

1. Tata Sons. Ltd.

Mills not using English yarn:—

1. Maneckji Petit Manufacturing Co., Ltd.
2. The Bombay Dyeing and Manufacturing Co., Ltd.
3. The Dinshaw Petit Mfg. Co., Ltd.
4. The Bombanji Petit Mfg. Co., Ltd.,

Mills refusing to give an undertaking not to use foreign yarn, but giving an assurance that all cloth bearing the stamp "spun and woven in India' will be woven out of Indian yarn only.

1. Edward Sassoon Mills, Ltd.
2. Meyer Sassoon Mills, Ltd.
3. E. D. Sassoon United Mills, Ltd.

The above list shows that the majority of the Mills weave cloth out of Indian yarn only while a few of the mills intend using Indian yarn as soon as their existing stock of foreign yarn is consumed. Foreign yarn is used only for orders in ten mills. It appears that the Tata Mills have declined supplying information to the Congress Committee as to whether the yarn used in the mills is Indian or otherwise. It is to the advantage of the Mills themselves to disclose information if they use Indian yarn in the manufacture of cloth for consumption in India as the majority of the people are now after purely Indian made cloth.

Customs Revenue. The returns of the Department of Statistics of the Government of India show that the Customs Revenue for the first half of the current financial year totals Rs. 15·70 crores as against 15·35 crores for the corresponding period in the year ending 31st

March 1921. The import duties alone contribute Rs. 1,189 lakhs. These figures do not give a correct indication of the progress of the Swadeshi movement as the imports having paid duties and included in the above figures relate to the period before the commencement of the active Swadeshi movement in India to promote the use of the indigenous articles, particularly cloth. The progress of the movement will be more apparent when the figures for the year are recorded and also in the next year's budget.

IRON AND STEEL IN INDIA.

Hidustan One Of The World's Steel Producers.

Costs and Results.

The following interesting article is from the October issue of the "Asiatic Review" :—

The basis for a successful iron and steel industry is not simple. High-grade iron ore alone is insufficient, as in addition it must be near a coalfield containing coking coal, have supplies of limestone or dolomite, and, unless the internal demand is a large enough one, be near the seaboard.

There are thus four conditions to be fulfiled, other than labour, and it is curious how new countries do fulfil all. The United States has excellent iron ore (50 per cent. iron), out the haul from the iron mines to the coal field is 800 miles and the distance to the sea board 250 to 300 miles. In the North of England the Cleveland district fulfils three conditions, but its ore is relatively low grade —50 per cent. iron. South Wales uses 50 per cent. ore, but has to bring it from Spain. India, in fact, is the country which most nearly fulfils the four conditions, and is thus destined to become one of the world producers of steel·

Until 1911 one ironworks existed in India, using a low-grade coal obtained in the ironstone shales of the coalfields and leading a somewhat precarious existence.

The discovery of the rich, extensive orefields of Orissa and their use has since 1910 revolutionised the industry and made it a prosperous one. Schemes already in operation make it certain that the output in five years time will be 500,000 tons pig-iron and 750,000 to 1,000,000 tons steel. The average percentage of metallic iron in the Orissa ores is 62 per cent., as compared with 50 per ceut. in the American and Spanish ores , and 30 per cent. in the Cleveland ores.

Mining and Transport Costs.

The distance of the orefields from the coal fields is 150 miles only

The ores exist in low hills, are worked in quarries at a low cost and the quantity available is estimated at 3,000 million tons. The cost of mining and transporting to the coalfields (where ironworks are usually situated) the iron ore necessary to make one ton of pig-iron is—India, 7s.; United States (Lake Superior ores), £2; North of England, £1 6s.; South Wales, £2.

Limestone or flux is plentiful in India within 200 miles of the coalfields, and can be cheaply worked, but the same applies to most iron countries; and the cost of putting into works the flux necessary formaking one ton of pig-iron is much the same in all the countries mentioned above, and is 3s. per ton pig-iron. Indian coal is the dearest of the three products necessary for making steel, and the quantity of first-class coking coals is by no means limitless.

India possesses a number of coalfiefds. stretching from the Singareni coalfields of Hyderabad Deccan to those of Assam, but the most valuable, from extent and proximity to seaboard, lie along the valley of the Damuda River west of Calcutta.

The Ranigunj coalfield, lying 140 miles west of Calcutta, is 500 square miles in area, and as the railway passed through it early in the development of the country (in 1857) it was opened out first. It contains large quantities of first-class coal, and in the Deshegur seam coal furnishes the best-known Indian coal, while its reserves of second grade coal are literally enormous. It is poor in coking coals, however. At one time contributing 95 per cent. of the output of India, it has long been passed by its younger brother the Jherria coalfield.

The Jherria coalfied, 30 miles further west, was not developed until 1886, when a railway was put into it. Its area is not as great as that of the Ranigunj (Jherria, 150 square miles), but there are few places in the world where more coal in a concensed area exists—for instance, in Central Jherria the first 400 feet of strata from the surface contain 100 ft, of good coal. It has repidly increased its output to 12,000,00 tons, but 1920 showed, for the first time, a serious decrease.

Practically all its coal is coking—half of it first grade coal. A further 30 miles west lies the Bakaro-Jherria coalfield, 260 square miles in area. It has been developed in the last five years, but the useful seams are limited in area, and the field is not likely to become a large producer.

Again, 40 miles to the west, are the Karanpura coalfields, 540 square miles in area, and at present being prospected. Large quantities of good coal have been found in the southern portion, a railway is being constructed into it, and its early and vigorous development is certain.

Improved Equipment.

Until recent years the equipment of Indian collieries was poor. Working conditions, such as dip roof and water, were favourable, and when working near the surface no elaborate machinery was required. The last ten years has seen a great advance in equipment, and several groups of collieries exist in which all operations—winding, hauling, and pumping—are done electrically, from current generated at a central general station.

First-class Indian coal is not as good as English as the ash percentage is 11 to 12 per cent. compared with 2 to 5 per cent , but the coking varieties make a fair, serviceable hard coke. While the quantity of first-class coking coal in the Bengal coalfields is great, the output is nothing like as large as it would be if mechanical coal-cutters were used, and the coming years must see a large increase in the use of mechanical coal-cutters.

Before the war Indian coal was among the cheapest in the world. For instance, the Indian railways usually paid 5s. 6d. per ton at pit's mouth for their coal. During the war prices were controlled, but the last year has seen a steady rise in price of coal, and the price railways have contracted to pay for the next three years is 13s. per ton. The causes of the increase are two—first, a sensational drop in output from 22,500,000 in 1919 to 17,250,000 in 1920, due to labour not working so hard, a feature common to labour all over the world: and, secondly, to the increasing internal demand.

Labour will reeover from the slackness from which it is now suffering—as labour all over the world will —but it will take some time to reach the figure of 1919, while the general industrial development of India and the special development of the iron and steel industry, based on coal, makes the question of coal supplies one of the most urgent industrial problems of India. The development of other coalfields than Ranigunj and Jherria is an urgent matter, since they will tap fresh labour areas and increase output quickly.

The Indian coal trade seems to have certainly three prosperous years ahead of it. Taking the price of Indian coal at 13s. per ton, the cost at the works of the coal necessary to make one ton of pig-iron is 24. per ton. The similar cost is 27s. in the case of the United States, 30s. in the case of South Wales, and 35 s in the case of the North of England.

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INDIAN FISCAL COMMISSION.

Explanatory Notes.

The following questions have been framed with a view to indicating the main aspects of the enquiry to be undertaken by the Fiscal Commission, so far as the President and those Members of the Commission whom he has been able to consult can at present judge of them. Sections A. and B. are intended to cover the general problems which will arise for consideration in determining the future direction of fiscal policy and in deciding whether India should adopt a policy of Imperial Preference. The remaining sections contain questions designed to elicit not only the opinions but the definite experience of those engaged in the various branches of industry and commerce. In the case of answers to these questions the Commission will naturally attach special importance to conclusions resting on a solid foundation of facts and figures.

2. It is not intended that those who are engaged in industry and commerce should confine themselves to the special sections dealing with their particlur business. On the contrary, there are many questions in Sections A. and B. which require for their adequate consideration an intimate acquaintance with business conditions, and it is hoped that those who have such special knowledge will give the Commission the benefit of their general views on the important and difficult problems that arise.

3. As explained above, the questions are designed to cover the whole field of the enquiry, so far as it can be outlined at this stage. It is not therefore expected that each witness should attempt to answer all the questions. If a witness wishes to give his views on any point relevant to the enquiry which have not been included in the questionnaire, it would be convenient that such points should be dealt with in a supplementary statement.

4. The Commission is inviting either directly or through Local Governments various associations and individuals to forward in writing their replies to the questionnaire. The Commission will also be glad to receive replies from any associations or individuals not so invited who may wish to represent their views. Copies of the questionnaire can be obtained from the Secretary, Indian Fiscal Commission, Simla, on application.

5. The Commission assembles in the first half of November and the early receipt of written replies to the questions would greatly facilitate its work. After perusal of the replies the Commission will select certain witnesses for oral examination. To give adequate time for this, it is requested that replies may be despatched so as to arrive at least three weeks before the date on which the witness is likely to be examined. The provincial programme of the tour of the Commission indicating the approximate dates on which oral evidence will be taken at each centre is as follows:—

Programme of Tour.

Assemble Bombay early in November. 1921. No evidence will be taken at Bombay at this time.

Depart. Bombay 24th November.
Arrive Karachi 26th November.
Depart. Karachi 2nd December.
Arrive Lahore 3rd December.
Depart. Lahore 9th December.
Arrive Delhi 10th December.
Depart. Delhi 15th December, (Delhi evidence will be taken at this time and not in March.)
Arrive Cawpnore 16th December.
Depart. Cawnpore 21st December.
Reassemble Calcutta 5th January, 1922.
Depart. Calcutta 20th January.
Arrive Rangoon 23rd January.
Depart. Rangoon 27th January.
Arrive Madras 30th January.
Depart. Madras 7th February.
Reassemble Bombay 20th February.
Departure Bombay 6th March.
Arrive Delhi 8th March.

6. Replies and all communications should be addressed to the Secretary, Indian Fiscal Commission, Simla, up to the 31st October, 1921. Thereafter they should be addressed to the Secretary, Indian Fiscal Commission Camp, without the addition of the name of any Post town.

"COMMERCE & INDUSTRIES"

POST BOX No. 353, MADRAS, S. C.

MADRAS,—OCTOBER, 16th 1921.

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OUR TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

India is the favourite child of fortune so far as her unlimited natural resources are concerned. As regards manufactures and commerce she is proverbially known as the poorest country in the whole world. The reason why this once richest and most civilised country in the world has been reduced to a state of poverty and helplessness is not very difficult to explain. India is a vast continent inhabited by over 300 millions of people of different communities, languages and religions and subjected to foreign invasions and internal wars which have crippled her man power and her industries and manufactures and drained her unbounded wealth, until at last she has been reduced to the position of a dependency. For the past several decades, she has been very keenly struggling for her economic and political independenc as other countries more or less of the same status have been doing for ages. No country can claim economic freedom without political power which she is even now struggling to attain. But, we are now much more concerned here with the vital problem of the development of the industries of the whole country on which the attention of the people should be concentrated without any differences of opinion. The majority of the population being poor and helpless ought to be provided with food and clothing. India produces enough of food and is not yet wholly dependent on foreign countries for this necessary though of course she has been importing several tons of wheat, rice and sugar annually. This deficiency points to the fact that her agricultural industry is lacking in organisation, enterprise and capital and has immense possibilities for development.

As for clothing, India having lost her position during the past half a century as a manufacturing country produceing fabrics of the finest quality both for home consumption as well as for export to the remotest corners of the world has just begun to revive her ancient spinning and weaving industry for which she established a reputation even beyond the seas for ages. It is therefore the bounden duty of every Indian to help the industry at any cost with a view to make India self-contained and self-sustaining by providing cotton cloth in sufficient quantity to supply the needs of her teeming millions. To produce cotton cloth, India is able to produce cotton not only sufficient to meet the requirements of her own cotton industry but also to export in large quantities to foreign countries. Besides, there is plenty of labour available for employment in the industry. The introduction of machanical appliances and factory organisation as in Bombay has no doubt killed manual labour and handloom weaving as a cottage industry but has been successfully able to appreciably check the import of foreign cloth. This is a distinct advantage gained over the cottage industry in the matter of mass production. But for the successful working of the cotton Mills in India, the whole population should have been entirely left at the mercy of the foreign manufacture in point of clothing.

Fifteen years ago, the administration of Lord Curzon which was responsible for the partition of Bengal kindled in the hearts of Indians a sense of national unity and self-respect which resulted in a campaign of Swadeshi and boycott throughout the length and breath of India. The movement for boycott disappeared with the annulument of the partition of Bengal while the Swadeshi movement was responsible for the establishment of a number of Banking and Textile Mills and other industrial concerns in the several provinces of India. There is this material difference between Swadeshi and boycott. The term "boycott" creates a hostile feeling of rejection of foreign goods when those articles are required in the country but could not be made. "Swadeshi" indicates a just nnd reasonable ambition to supply the wants of the people of the country by their own industry. In fact, the whole world is adopting Swadeshism. Every nation in the world is adopting Swadeshi as an effective and only measure of economic progress. Ever since 1901, Japan is practically refusing to import a single bale of yarn from England but has not made any atttempt to destroy foreign goods. Every nation or country has an inherent right to impose import duties as a measure of protecting her own iudustry. Japan did the same and has stopped all imports of yarn from Lancashire and Bombay.

The establishment and prosperity of the Bombay textile Mills is no doubt due to the Swadeshi movement which created in the hearts of Indians a feeling of love for Indian made textiles. The profits of the Bombay textile mills for 1920 amounted to Rs. 16·53 crores as against Rs. 13·06 crores in the previous year. The Spinning mills for which there is enormous scope for development earned a profit of 124 per cent and the share holders were given a dividend of 55 per cent on the original capital. The profits of the weaving mills for 1920 were 66·55 per cent, the dividends being about 30 per cent. It has been reported that one Spinning Mill alone in Bombay made a net profit of Rs. 21,05,000 per annum on a capital of Rs. 2,50,000. Is this not an adequate proof of the success of the Swadeshi movement in India? While the movement is progressing by leaps and bounds in these days, there is ever greater need for the establishment of more and more Spinning mills in India. There are at present 253 mills with 67·63 lakhs of spindles and 1·19 lakhs of looms. The average number of workmen is 3·11 lakhs and the consumptian of Cotton is 19·52 lakhs of bales of 392 lb each. In 1919, 65·66 crores of pounds of yarn was produced against 61·73 crores in 1920 and 39·58 crores of pounds of cloth or 168 crores of yards was produced in 1919 aginst 35·41 crores of pounds or 152 crores of yards in 1920 in India. These results afford ample demonstration of the need for more mills in India and of the likelihood of increasing dividends to shareholders. It is hoped that enterprising capitalists will come forward to establish and work new mills for spinning and weaving in India.

Before the war, India imported about 2,400,000,000 yards of cloth or rather more than half the total consumption in India. Imports of cloth have fallen by nearly one half during and since the War. The total consumption of cloth has fallen from 4,464,000,000 yards to 3,730,000,000 yards or by about one sixth. This shows that the people in India consumed much less cloth during the past five years because of the high prices of imported cloth and of their inability to obtain supplies owing to the limited production in India. Even now, the prices of cloth are very high. It is therefore the duty of every Indian to pay adequate attention to see that sufficient cloth is produced in India and that the price charged is fairly moderate as the people are too poor to pay such heavy prices.

It is interesting to notice here that the combined production of the Indian mills and hand-looms has increased from 2,068,000,000 yards per annum during the five years ending 1913-14 to 2,408,000,000 yards annually during the five years ending 1920—21. Very little new machinery was imported during the second period. The increase of 20 per cent, though small, is however satisfactory especially in view of the fact that the price of cloth during the second period was nearly three times its price in the period ending 1913—14. The poor millions of India cannot afford to bear such heavy prices. The problem before us is to find ways and means to supply the population with more cloth at a cheaper price. It thus becomes the bounden duty of ever well-wisher of the country, the hand-loom weaver and the mills, to try to strain every nerve to produce the greatest amount of cloth possible at a moderate price. The possibity of large increase in production lies entirely with the hand-loom industry. The spinning wheel is already at work in most of the houses in villages and towns.

The Government are trying their best to encourage hand-loom weaving by employing textile experts and demonstration parties to popularise improved looms and other mechanical appliances. The Government of Lord Sinha is responsible for the hand-weaving exhibition at Patna in Behar and Orissa and a silk Institute to be established at Bagalpur. The working of the spinning wheel throughout India is simply an excellent organisation to make up the enormous deficiency in cloth and to revive the ancient textile industry. It gives food to the masses and economically enriches the country. In the course of time it is quite possible that a large quantity of hand spun cloth can be made in India in order to take the place of foreign cloth and this can be done out of the cotton grown in India and now being exported to foreign countries. Indian Mills have not been able to take delivery of new machinery. For this reason, the Willingdon Spinning and Weaving Mills, a new concern recently floated in Madras and several others floated abroad have been wound up. Lack of new machinery, the need for Swadeshi cloth, high prices of imported cloth, the failure of piece-goods merchants dealing in foreign cloth owing to the exchange difficulties and the adaptability of the spinning wheel to every Indian home where every Indian, man, woman and child devotes to this industry, all point to the success of the spinning and weaving industry.

RAILWAYS IN INDIA—STATE *v.* COMPANY MANAGEMENT.

The following are extracts from a pamphlet by Pandit Chandikaprasad, one of the best Indian authorities on railways :—

"It is remarkable that the European commerical bodies, both in India and in England, have, from the earliest times, been pressing upon the Government a larger extension of railways in India and they desire that the management of State railways should continue to be in the hands of private companies who have never taken any risk whatever on account of the Indian railways. Even the capitalists of England have so far failed to invest their money in Indian railways as an unpaid private enterprise. They have always insisted upon a Government guarantee of high interest, the burden of which has fallen entirely upon the people of India. The commercial bodies who now offer gratuitous advice in favour of employing private companies as agents of Government, have taken no risk whatever and have enjoyed all facilities provided by the railways to push on their trade. It is the people of India who have borne all the burden and they alone should decide the great question now at issue.

"The system of lending Indian State railways to private comoanies virtually amounts to this, that the people of India defrayed the costs and expenses of building up the property, while the profits and other advantages of ownership are shared and reaped by others. In the early days of these railways when the traffic returns were low and did not pay the expense and interest and other charges, the people of India defrayed all deficits. When the time came for profits, the companies stepped in and got hold of the railways, practically becoming masters of the same, sharing in the surplus profits, and exercising powers over large expenditure and lucrative appointments, keeping Indians down in the lowest grades of the service."

Questions for Witnesses.

A.—General.

The existing Indian import tariff is based primarily on revenue considerations. But it has been modified with a view to admitting free or at the favourable rate of 2½ per cent. articles the cheap import of which was considered desirable in the interests of the country. Thus certain raw materials, manures, agricultural implements, dairy appliances and cotton yarn are admitted free. Machinery, iron and steel and railway plant and rolling stock pay only 2½ per cent. *ad valorem.* The general rate, under which come the bulk of imports, is 11 per cent. *ad valorem,* while certain articles such as motor cars, jewellery and silk goods have been specially subjected from revenue considerations to a duty of 20 per cent. Sugar is charged at a special rate of 15 per cent. and high duties are imposed for revenue purposes on tobacco and liquors. An excise duty to the rate of 3½ per cent. is levied on all woven cotton goods manufactured in power mills in British India.

Export duties imposed for revenue purposes are at present levied on raw and manufactured jute, rice and tea. In 1919 an export duty was also imposed on raw hides and skins, with a rebate of 2/3 of the duty on hides and skins exported to any part of the Empire. The object of the duty was partly to foster the Indian tanning industry and partly to maintain a key industry within the Empire

A Revenue Tariff.

1. Do you generally favour a policy of free trade or protection? If the former, have you any objection to the imposition of customs duties for the purpose of obtainmg revenue?

2. Do you consider that a tariff provides a more or a less suitable form of taxation for India than direct taxation? If fresh taxation were necessary would you prefer an increase in customs to an increase in direct taxation?

3. If you accept the principle of imposing a traiff for revenue purposes would you suggest any change in the list of articles taxed or in the rate of taxation?

4. Do you consider that the tariff should continue to be based on existing principles? If so, please explain your views as to the advantages of this policy.

5. What effect do you consider the existing tariff policy has had on Indian industries in the past, and what effects on Indian industries would you anticipate from a continuance of this in the future?

6. When a duty is imposed on an article imported from abroad do you approve in theory or in practice of imposing an excise duty on the same article manufactured in India?

7. If you favour the imposition of excise duties is it on the ground that no protection of any kind should be afforded to the home manufacturer as against the foreign manufacturer?

8. Can such duties be imposed without raising the price to the consumer?

A Protective Tariff.

9. Do you consider that the tariff should be framed primarily with the object of fostering Indian industries? If so, please explain the advantages anticipated.

10. Do you look forward to India becoming in time independent of the countries in regard to all her requirements of manufactured goods, or do you consider that there are certain manufactured goods for which she is always likely to be dependent on other countries? If you hold the latter view can you furnish a list of articles for which India will have to depend on other countries?

11. Would you, for the purpose of developing Indian industries, favour the imposition of protective duties on all imported manufactures or only on some?

12. If you favour the protection of some industries only, which would you select for protection and on what principles?

13. Do you consider it desirable establish new industries by protection? If so, on what principles would you select them?

14. Would you confine protection to industries which are likely after a period to be able to face foreign competition without such assistance, or would you contemplate the establishment of industries which would be likely to require continuous assistance?

15. Would you grant special protection against foregin goods favored by such measures as dumping, bounties, subsidies or transport concessions? If so, what means would you suggest for ascertaining the exact facts and what measures would you advocate to afford the necessary protection?

16. What is your attitude towards hand industries and in particular towards hand cotton handloom industry? Do you wish them to be maintained or not?

17. Is there any danger in India of protection leading to combination among the protected manaufactures in order to maintain a quasi monopoly price? If so, what safeguards would you suggest to counteract the effect of such a combination?

18. Do you think that if a protectve policy is adopted, it is likely that British or foreign industrial firms will endeavour to establish themselves in India in order to get the benefit of the protective tariff? If so, what would be your attitude tcwards such a movement?

19. In countries under a protective system it sometimes happens that producers of raw-material ask for protection, while manufacturers who use the raw material oppose them, wishing to get their raw material as cheaply as possible. In the same way a demand of the spinning industry for protection is sometimes opposed by the weaving industry whose interset lies in cheap yarn. Do you think that conflicts of interest of this nature would be likely to arise in India and that if they did arise there would be any difficulty in adjusting them?

Effect of Protection on prices and on the consumer.

20. When an import duty is imposed, do you consider that ordinarily the whole or any part of it is passed on to the consumer in a rise of price?

21. If a protective duty causes a rise in price, is that rise likely to be permanent or not?

22. Would you be willing to accept an increase in price to the Indian consumer for the sake of developing Indian industries?

23. In considering the above question would you have regard to the point whether the protected article was a necessary of life? If so, what articles would you class as necessaries?

24. If you hold that an increase in the tariff rates would tend to increase the cost of living in India do you think the increased cost would be covered wholly or in part by a rise in wages or salary for.

(a) the industrial wage earner,
(b) the agricultural wage earner,
(c) the middle classes.

Effect of Protection on Foreign Trade.

25 What effect do you consider a policy of protection would have on the foreign trade of India and on the general commercial position and prospects of the country?

Use of Tariff for bargaining.

26. Do you consider that the existence of a tariff which could be used as an instrument for bargaining with other countries would be advantageous to India?

27. If so, would you recommend the adoption of general and special traiffs, the special being applied to countries from which India receives favourable treatment?

28. If the tariff is to be used in this way, would it be necessary to make it more detailed than it is at present?

Organisation for investigating the claims of Industries.

29. If a policy of protection were adopted would you recommend any kind of permanent organization for investigating the claims of various industries to protection from time to time and for the periodical readjustment of traiff rates.

Export duties.

30. What is your view of the proper function of export duties? Do you think that they should be imposed only for the purpose of raising revenue or do you think that they may be utilised for other purposes also?

31. What do you consider generally is the effect of export duties on the export trade? Can they in certain circumstances be imposed without injury to the trade? If so, in the case of what trades in India could this be done and to what extent?

32. Would you consider it advisable to impose an export duty on a raw material in order to encourage its retention in India either for purposes of manufacture or for any other purpose? If so, please examine instances in which you would recommend such action and consider whether it would have any effect on the producers of the raw material and the amount they would produce.

33. Do you consider that it would be of advantage to India to impose an export duty on foodstuffs with a view to controlling their export and thereby lowering Indian prices and the cost of living? What effect do you consider such action would be likely to have on the agricultural interests and on the quantity of foodstuffs produced in India?

34. Would you consider it advisable to impose an export duty on a raw material in retaliation for an import duty imposed by a foreign country on the manufactured article? If so,, please examine cases in which you would recommend such action.

B.—Imperial Preference.

At present reduced duties are levied by Canada, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand on a number of articles imported from the United Kingdom. In Canada, Australia and New Zealand the preferential duties are usually about 2/3 of the full duty, though the fraction varies considerably both above and below this figure. The South African preference is a small one and is usually only a rebate of 3 per cent *ad valorem.*

The United Kingdom has recently established preferential rates which are granted to the whole Empire on nearly all articles on which import duties are levied in the United Kingdom. The preferential rate is as a rule either 5/6 or 2/3 of the full rate.

A number of the smaller colonies grant preferential rates to the United Kingdom, and there are also various agreements between different parts of the Empire for mutual preference.

The countries which at present levy a lower rate of duty on certain goods imported from India as compared with the general duty levied on imports from foreign countries are the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand.

The articles of interest to India on which such lower duties are levied in the United Kingdom are tea, coffee and tobacco. These are all charged 5/6 of the full rate. In the case of Canada the only Indian imports of any account are tea, jute cloth and raw hides. There is no duty on raw hides or jute cloth. On Indian tea the rate is 7 cents per lb. as against the rate of 10 cents on tea imported from countries outside the Empire. New Zealand imports from India a small quantity of tea which pays 3d. per lb. as against the rate of 5d. charged on tea imported from outside the Empire, and a small quantity of candles which are charged 1½d. per lb. instead of 2¼d. Other imports from India into New Zealand are for the most part either free or receive no special treatment.

35. Are you on general grounds favourable to the idea of Imperial Preference? If so, do you think that India would be justified in risking any appreciable economic loss for the sake of Imperial Preference?

36. Would you differentiate between the policy to be adopted towards the United Kingdom and towards other parts of the Empire?

37. Do you anticipate any material loss or gain to India from a system of Imperial Preference? In particular do you apprehend any likelihood of retaliation by foreign countries against India?

38. If you are in favour of preference, can you give a list of articles imported into India and exported from India to which the policy of preference might be applied? What would you consider a reasonble average rate of preference?

39. What principles would you apply in selecting articles to which preference might be given on import into India? Would you give preference in the case of goods which India hopes in time to manufacture mainly or entirely for herself, or only in the case of goods for which India is likely to have to depend on other countries.

40. If preference were given by raising the import duties on goods coming from foreign countries, the existing rates being maintained for British goods, do you anticipate that this would raise the price to the consumer or not?

41. Do you think that a system of Imperial Preference is likely to increase or diminish the total volume of Indian imports or exports, or to alter appreciably the proportion between them and thus affect the balance of trade?

42. Do you consider that the partial or complete diversion of trade from foreign countries which might result from Imperial Preference would have any effect on India's general trade position?

C.—Manufactures.

43. Are you interested in any industry and if so in what capacity?

44. Do you consider that there are natural advantages for the industry in India? If so, please enumerate them.

45. Do you consider that the industry is essential to the national security or of substantial importance to the economic prosperity of India?

46. What is the state of organization and equipment of the industry in India as compared with that in other countries?

47. On what markets does the industry depend for the sale of its output?

48. What foreign competition (including for this purpose competition from the United Kingdom or other parts of the Empire) does the industry have to meet—

(a) in the Indian market;

(b) elsewhere?

Does this competition extend to all or only to particular classes of goods, and does it vary with different classes of goods?

49. Apart from questions of organization and equipment are there any special circumstances, natural or artificial, which give the competing country an advantage.

50. Do you think that the industry needs protection? If so, what rate of duty do you consider it is necessary to imopse? Please give in detail the facts and figures on which you base your conclusions.

51. Do you think it likely that if protection is granted, the industry will eventually reach a level of development which would enable it to face foreign competition without the aid of protection, or do you think the industry will always remain to a greater or less degree in need of protection?

52. Does the industry ever suffer from dumping? If so, do you wish to suggest any remedy?

53. Is competition from other countries accentuated by depressed exchanges in these countries?

54. If so, is this phenomenon likely to be temporary?

55. Do you consider that any remedy is required? If so, what would you suggest?

56. Has the industry received any benefit from the successive enhancements of the tariff beginning in 1916? Can you describe the effects, so far as yet apparent?

57. Do you think the industry has suffered in any way from export duties? If so, please give in detail the facts and figures from which this conclusion is drawn.

58. Is the finished product of the industry used as the raw material for any other industry? If so, to that extent?

59. Does the industry use as its raw material the finished product of any other industry which is established or is likely to be established in India?

60. Would you prefer a system under which all industries would receive a more or less uniform protection, or one under which Industries receive varying amounts of protection in accordance with their needs?

D.—Export Trade.

N.B.—These questions are intended not only for actual exporters, but also for those who produce for export.

61. What articles do you export and to what countries?

62. Are you interested in any of the articles on which export duties are levied? If so, what do you consider has been the effect of these duties?

63. Do you recommend the increase, reduction or abolition of any of the existing export duties?

64. Is the Indian export trade in any way hampered by high import duties imposed in certain countries. If so, do you consider any action feasible or desirable?

65. Do you think the export of any articles in which you deal would be stimulated by a preferential rate granted by the United Kingdom or any of the Dominions or Colonies? If so, what would you consider the minimum rate of preference for each article which would exercise an appreciable effect?

66. Do you consider that the lower duties at present levied on certain imports from India into the United Kingdom or Canada or New Zealand, as compared with the general duty levied on imports from countries outside the Empire, have had or are likely to have any beneficial effects on the Indian trade in those articles?

67. Do you think that any foreign country whose trade might suffer by a system of Imperial Preference would be able without injury to itself, or would be likely even at the cost of injury to itself, to penalise the Indian export trade to that country? If so, what are the Indian exports that might suffer?

68. If owing to a system of Imperial Preference the imports from certain foreign countries diminished, do you consider that this would tend to have any effect on the volume of Indian exports to those countries?

69. If so, would there be an alternative outlet for these exports, without economic disadvantage, within the British Empire or in other foreign countries?

E.—Import Trade.

70. What artilces do you import and from what countries?

71. Have you observed any effects on your trade in particular articles from the year 1916 up to date, which can be ascribed in part or in whole to the changes in the rates of import duty?

72. Do you consider that an appreciable increase in the present tariff rates would seriously diminish the volume of imports? Can you give instances of any important commodities in which such a result is likely to occur?

37. What would you expect to be the effect on the import trade of a preference given to British goods:—

(a). if the preference were given by maintaining the existing rate for foreign goods and reducing it for British goods:

(b). if the preference were given by maintaining the existing rate for British goods and enhancing it for foreign goods; and

(c). if the preference were given by a combination of (a) and (b), he., rasing the rate for foreign goods and reducing it for British goods?

74. If Imperial Preference were introduced would you recommend that the same preference on the same goods should be granted to all constituent parts of the Empire, or would you treat each part of the Empire separately, taking into account the question of what reciprocal benefits India would receive?

75. Do you think it likely that a system of Imperial Preference would diminish or increase the total import of any class of goods, or would it merely tend to alter the proportion in which that total is derived from foreign and British countries?

76. Would any undesirable results follow from diverting the source of Indian imports from foreign to British countries?

77. If you are favourable to Imperial Preference, to what articles would you be prepared to extend a preference if imported from the Empire or particular parts of the Empire, and what would you suggest as the amount of that preference?

78. Do you approve of the system of *ad valorem* customs duties, or would you prefer that the duty should be specific, i. e., a fixed charge for a given weight or measure? If you prefer the latter system, what are your views on the necessity of readjusting the duties from time to time?

F.—Retail Trade.

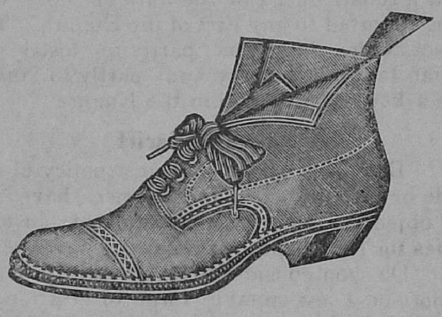
79. What are the principal imported goods in which you deal?

80. To what extent can changes in the retail prices of imported goods from 1916 onwards be attributed to the increases in the import duties during that period? Can you give details of any such changes in retail prices with which you are familiar?

81. In the case of any important classes of imports can you give any figures showing to what extent demand diminishes as prices rise?

82. Have the increases in the tariff since 1916 affected your trade in any way?

83. What would you expect to be the effect on your trade if imports from the United Kingdom or from the whole Empire were taxed at existing rates, while the duty on imports from foreign countries was raised?



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